

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 ACDA-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 161712Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9140

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, SOPN, PEPR, IS, UR, PLO, LE

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA COMMENTARY ON ISRAELI ATTACK

1. MARCH 16 PRAVDA CARRIES FIRST SOVIET PRESS REPORTING
AND COMMENTARY ON ISRAELI ATTACK IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.
TASS BEIRUT ARTICLE DESCRIBES MILITARY ACTION AND EMPHA-
SIZES THAT IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT WITH U.S. WEAPONS.
PRAVDA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT GEYVANDOV DESCRIBES
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ATTACK AS "UNPROVOKED CRIMINAL AGGRESSION" AGAINST SOVER-
EIGN STATE AND REPORTS CONDEMNATORY REMARKS BY LEBANESE
PM HUSS AND PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT. GEYVANDOV CONCLUDES BY
NOTING ACTIVE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND "AMBASSADORS OF GREAT
POWERS" IN BEIRUT.

2. ABOVE REPORTING IS FOLLOWED BY "OPINION OF POLITICAL COLUMNIST," IN THIS CASE, YURIY ZHUKOV. STRONGLY CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTION, ZHUKOV CLAIMS 1) THAT ISRAELIS COULD NOT HAVE PREPARED AN ATTACK ON THIS SCALE IN SPACE OF 2-3 DAYS, 2) THAT WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE SHOWS THAT THIS REPRISAL WAS CARRIED OUT "WITH CONSENT AND BLESSING" OF AMERICAN ALLIES AND PROTECTORS OF ISRAEL, AND 3) THAT THE "IMPUDENCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE" OF THE ISRAELI MILITARISTS IS RESULT OF SADAT'S RECENT POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL.

3. ZHUKOV CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT ON DEMAND OF SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION FOR CEASEFIRE AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. THEY (THE ISRAELIS) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH "BRIGANDAGE ON FOREIGN TERRITORIES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT," HE SAYS. TOON

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Message Attributes

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